

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

AHMET MATT OZCAN d/b/a
DISCOUNTFILTER,

Defendant.

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Civil Action No. 2:15-cv-2103

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

COMES NOW Plaintiff Whirlpool Corporation (“Whirlpool”), and for its Complaint for Patent Infringement of United States Patent Nos. 8,356,716, 8,413,818, 8,591,736, D654,559, D654,560, D654,561, D654,562, and D655,377 against Defendant Ahmet Matt Ozcan d/b/a discountfilter, states as follows:

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Whirlpool is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Delaware with a principal place of business at 2000 North M-63, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

2. On information and belief, Defendant Ahmet Matt Ozcan (“Ozcan”) is a citizen and resident of Texas operating out of his address: 14814 Earlswood Drive, Houston, Texas 77083. Ozcan has and continues to do business in Texas and throughout the United States as “discountfilter.”

JURISDICTION & VENUE

3. The action arises under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 United States Code. The jurisdiction of this Court is proper under Title 35 U.S.C. § 271, *et seq.* and Title 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332, and 1338.

4. Ozcan is a seller of water filters for refrigerators.

5. Ozcan has offered for sale and sold throughout the United States a Whirlpool-compatible water filter that infringes United States Patent Nos. 8,356,716, 8,413,818, 8,591,736, D654,559, D654,560, D654,561, D654,562 (collectively, “the patents”), such as a water filter identified as “Newwell Water Filters” Model No. NW-FL2, which is a Whirlpool “Filter 2” design. Ozcan has offered for sale and sold such infringing products throughout the United States through on-line retail outlets such as eBay.

6. Ozcan has offered for sale and sold Whirlpool-compatible refrigerator water filters that infringe U.S. Patent Nos. 8,356,716, 8,413,818, 8,591,736, D654,559, D654,560, D654,561, D654,562, and D655,377, such as a water filter identified as Model No. NW-FL2, to residents and citizens of Texas who reside within this district.

7. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Ozcan because he has advertised in Texas, including the Eastern District of Texas, the sale of infringing filters via the internet, and Ozcan has offered for sale and sold the infringing products to customers in the state of Texas, including the Eastern District of Texas, thereby harming Whirlpool by offering to sell and/or selling infringing products in this district.

8. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), 1391(c) and 1400(b) because Ozcan has committed acts of infringement in this judicial district.

COUNT I
Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 8,356,716

9. Whirlpool restates and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 8 as if fully stated herein.

10. On January 22, 2013, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 8,356,716 (“the ‘716 patent”) entitled “Filter Unit.” Appended as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the ‘716 patent.

11. Whirlpool is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title and interest in and to the ‘716 patent, including the right to sue and recover past, present, and future damages for infringement.

12. Whirlpool manufactures products that practice the ‘716 patent, including Whirlpool Filter 2 refrigerator filters, and marks such products with the ‘716 patent.

13. Ozcan has been infringing the ‘716 patent by importing, offering for sale and/or selling water filters covered by at least claims 1 and 15 of the ‘716 patent.

14. Whirlpool has obtained a water filter identified as Model No. NW-FL2 from Ozcan (hereinafter the “Infringing Filter”). Photographs that are fair and accurate representations of the Infringing Filter are appended as Exhibit B. The Infringing Filter infringes at least claims 1 and 15 of said patent pursuant to Title 35, U.S.C. § 271(a), *et. seq.*

15. Ozcan’s acts of infringement were undertaken without permission or license from Whirlpool. Ozcan had actual and/or constructive knowledge of the ‘716 patent, and his actions constitute willful and intentional infringement of the ‘716 patent.

16. On information and belief, Ozcan has gained, and will continue to gain, profits by virtue of his infringement of the ‘716 patent. By reason of such infringing acts, Whirlpool has been damaged and is entitled to monetary relief in an amount to be determined at trial.

17. Due to Ozcan's infringing acts, Whirlpool has suffered and continues to suffer great and irreparable injury, for which Whirlpool has no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT II
Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 8,413,818

18. Whirlpool restates and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 17 as if fully stated herein.

19. On April 9, 2013, the USPTO duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 8,413,818 ("the '818 patent") entitled "Filter Unit." Appended as Exhibit C is a true and correct copy of the '818 patent.

20. Whirlpool is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title and interest in and to the '818 patent, including the right to sue and recover past, present, and future damages for infringement.

21. Whirlpool manufactures products that practice the '818 patent, including Whirlpool Filter 2 refrigerator filters, and marks such products with the '818 patent.

22. Ozcan has been infringing the '818 patent by importing, offering for sale, and/or selling water filters covered by at least claims 1 and 15 of the '818 patent.

23. Whirlpool has obtained a water filter identified as Model No. NW-FL2 from Ozcan. The Infringing Filter infringes at least claims 1 and 15 of said patent pursuant to Title 35, U.S.C. § 271(a), *et seq.*

24. Ozcan's acts of infringement were undertaken without permission or license from Whirlpool. Ozcan had actual and/or constructive knowledge of the '818 patent, and his actions constitute willful and intentional infringement of the '818 patent.

25. On information and belief, Ozcan has gained, and will continue to gain, profits by virtue of his infringement of the '818 patent. By reason of such infringing acts, Whirlpool has been damaged and is entitled to monetary relief in an amount to be determined at trial.

26. Due to Ozcan's infringing acts, Whirlpool has suffered and continues to suffer great and irreparable injury, for which Whirlpool has no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT III
Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 8,591,736

27. Whirlpool restates and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26 as if fully stated herein.

28. On November 26, 2013, the USPTO duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 8,591,736 ("the '736 patent") entitled "Water Filter Unit." Appended as Exhibit D is a true and correct copy of the '736 patent.

29. Whirlpool is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title and interest in and to the '736 patent, including the right to sue and recover past, present, and future damages for infringement.

30. Whirlpool manufactures products that practice the '736 patent, including Whirlpool Filter 2 refrigerator filters, and marks such products with the '736 patent.

31. Ozcan has been infringing the '736 patent by importing, offering for sale, and/or selling water filters covered by at least claim 1 of the '736 patent.

32. Whirlpool has obtained a filter identified as Model No. NW-FL2 from Ozcan. The Infringing Filter infringes at least claim 1 of said patent pursuant to Title 35, U.S.C. § 271(a), *et seq.*

33. Ozcan's acts of infringement were undertaken without permission or license from Whirlpool. Ozcan had actual and/or constructive knowledge of the '736 patent, and his actions constitute willful and intentional infringement of the '736 patent.

34. On information and belief, Ozcan has gained, and will continue to gain, profits by virtue of his infringement of the '736 patent. By reason of such infringing acts, Whirlpool has been damaged and is entitled to monetary relief in an amount to be determined at trial.

35. Due to Ozcan's infringing acts, Whirlpool has suffered and continues to suffer great and irreparable injury, for which Whirlpool has no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT IV
Infringement of U.S. Patent No. D654,559

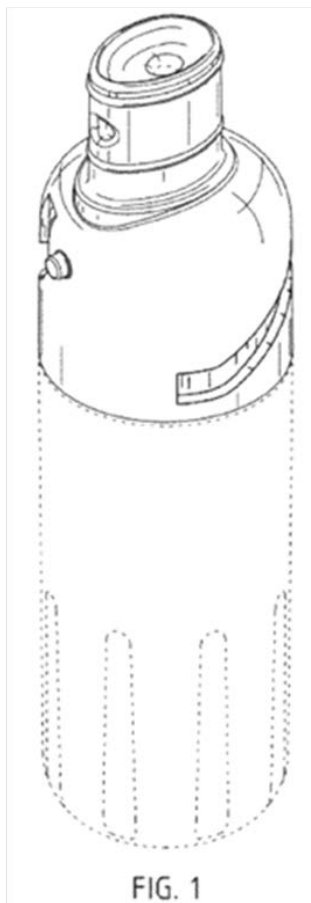
36. Whirlpool restates and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully stated herein.

37. On February 21, 2012, the USPTO duly and legally issued United States Design Patent No. D654,559 ("the D'559 patent"), entitled "Filter Unit," claiming the design as disclosed therein. Appended as Exhibit E is a true and correct copy of the D'559 patent.

38. Whirlpool is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title and interest in and to the D'559 patent, including the right to sue and recover past, present, and future damages for infringement.

39. Ozcan has infringed and continues to infringe the D'559 patent by selling and offering to sell in the United States Infringing Filters, which copies and is at least nearly identical to the design covered by the D'559 patent, as illustrated below:

D'559 Patent



Infringing Filter



40. Ozcan's acts of infringement were undertaken without permission or license from Whirlpool.

41. On information and belief, Ozcan has gained, and will continue to gain, profits by virtue of his infringement of the D'559 patent. By reason of such infringing acts, Whirlpool has been damaged and is entitled to monetary relief in an amount to be determined at trial.

42. Due to Ozcan's infringing acts, Whirlpool has suffered and continues to suffer great and irreparable injury, for which Whirlpool has no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT V
Infringement of U.S. Patent No. D654,560

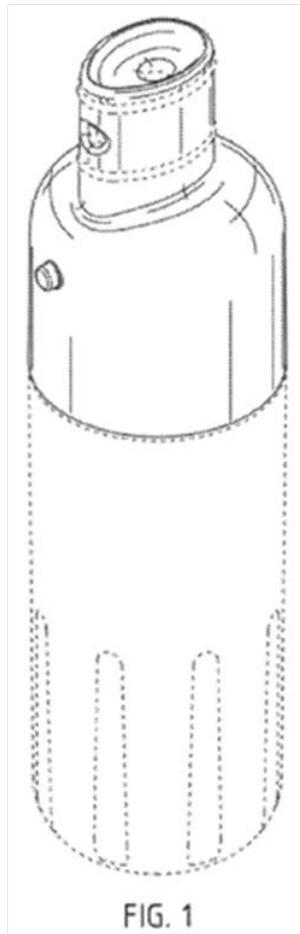
43. Whirlpool restates and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 42 as if fully stated herein.

44. On February 21, 2012, the USPTO duly and legally issued United States Design Patent No. D654,560 (“the D’560 patent”), entitled “Filter Unit,” claiming the design as disclosed therein. Appended as Exhibit F is a true and correct copy of the D’560 patent.

45. Whirlpool is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title and interest in and to the D’560 patent, including the right to sue and recover past, present, and future damages for infringement.

46. Ozcan has infringed and continues to infringe the D’560 patent by selling, and offering to sell in the United States Infringing Filters, which copies and is at least nearly identical to the design covered by the D’560 patent, as illustrated below:

D'560 Patent



Infringing Filter



47. Ozcan's acts of infringement were undertaken without permission or license from Whirlpool.

48. On information and belief, Ozcan has gained, and will continue to gain, profits by virtue of his infringement of the D'560 patent. By reason of such infringing acts, Whirlpool has been damaged and is entitled to monetary relief in an amount to be determined at trial.

49. Due to Ozcan's infringing acts, Whirlpool has suffered and continues to suffer great and irreparable injury, for which Whirlpool has no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT VI
Infringement of U.S. Patent No. D654,561

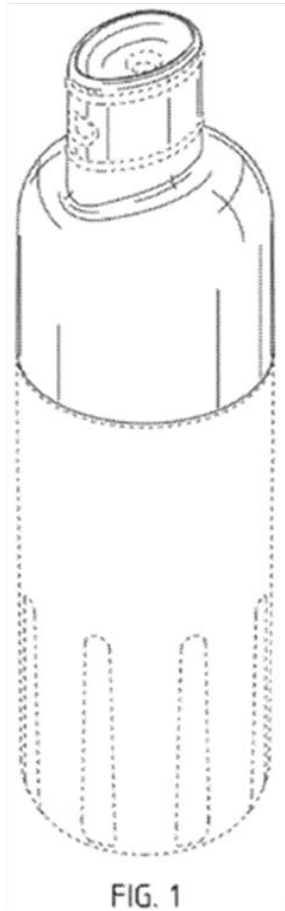
50. Whirlpool restates and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 49 as if fully stated herein.

51. On February 21, 2012, the USPTO duly and legally issued United States Design Patent No. D654,561 (“the D’561 patent”), entitled “Filter Unit,” claiming the design as disclosed therein. Appended as Exhibit G is a true and correct copy of the D’561 patent.

52. Whirlpool is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title and interest in and to the D’561 patent, including the right to sue and recover past, present, and future damages for infringement.

53. Ozcan has infringed and continues to infringe the D’561 patent by selling and offering to sell in the United States Infringing Filters, which copies and is at least nearly identical to the design covered by the D’561 patent, as illustrated below:

D'561 Patent



Infringing Filter



54. Ozcan's acts of infringement were undertaken without permission or license from Whirlpool.

55. On information and belief, Ozcan has gained, and will continue to gain, profits by virtue of his infringement of the D'561 patent. By reason of such infringing acts, Whirlpool has been damaged and is entitled to monetary relief in an amount to be determined at trial.

56. Due to Ozcan's infringing acts, Whirlpool has suffered and continues to suffer great and irreparable injury, for which Whirlpool has no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT VII
Infringement of U.S. Patent No. D654,562

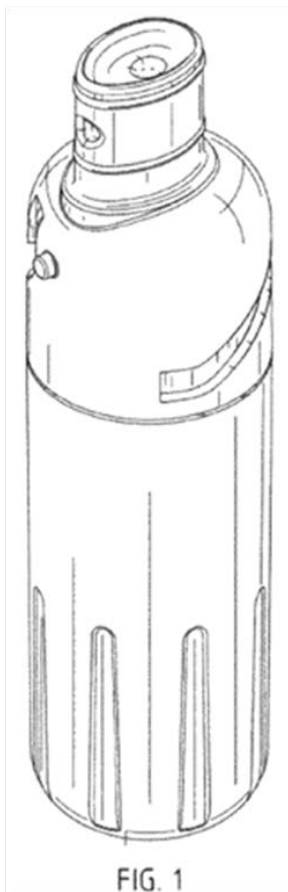
57. Whirlpool restates and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 56 as if fully stated herein.

58. On February 21, 2012, the USPTO duly and legally issued United States Design Patent No. D654,562 (“the D’562 patent”), entitled “Filter Unit,” claiming the design as disclosed therein. Appended as Exhibit H is a true and correct copy of the D’562 patent.

59. Whirlpool is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title and interest in and to the D’562 patent, including the right to sue and recover past, present, and future damages for infringement.

60. Ozcan has infringed and continues to infringe the D’562 patent by selling and offering to sell in the United States Infringing Filters, which copies and is at least nearly identical to the design covered by the D’562 patent, as illustrated below:

D'562 Patent



Infringing Filter



61. Ozcan's acts of infringement were undertaken without permission or license from Whirlpool.

62. On information and belief, Ozcan has gained, and will continue to gain, profits by virtue of his infringement of the D'562 patent. By reason of such infringing acts, Whirlpool has been damaged and is entitled to monetary relief in an amount to be determined at trial.

63. Due to Ozcan's infringing acts, Whirlpool has suffered and continues to suffer great and irreparable injury, for which Whirlpool has no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT VIII
Infringement of U.S. Patent No. D655,377

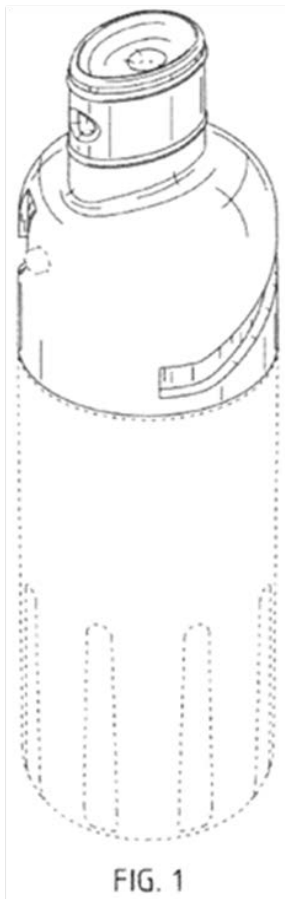
64. Whirlpool restates and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 63 as if fully stated herein.

65. On March 6, 2012, the USPTO duly and legally issued United States Design Patent No. D655,377 (“the D’377 patent”), entitled “Filter Unit,” claiming the design as disclosed therein. Appended as Exhibit I is a true and correct copy of the D’377 patent.

66. Whirlpool is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title and interest in and to the D’377 patent, including the right to sue and recover for past, present, and future damages for infringement.

67. Ozcan has infringed and continues to infringe the D’377 patent by selling and offering to sell in the United States Infringing Filters, which copies and is at least nearly identical to the design covered by the D’377 patent, as illustrated below:

D'377 Patent



Infringing Filter



68. Ozcan's acts of infringement were undertaken without permission or license from Whirlpool.

69. On information and belief, Ozcan has gained, and will continue to gain, profits by virtue of his infringement of the D'377 patent. By reason of such infringing acts, Whirlpool has been damaged and is entitled to monetary relief in an amount to be determined at trial.

70. Due to Ozcan's infringing acts, Whirlpool has suffered and continues to suffer great and irreparable injury, for which Whirlpool has no adequate remedy at law.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Whirlpool respectfully requests the following relief:

- a. That the Court enter a judgment that Ozcan has infringed the patents;
- b. That the Court enter a judgment that the patents are not invalid;
- c. That the Court enter a judgment that the patents are enforceable;
- d. That the Court enter a permanent injunction preventing Ozcan and his respective officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, licensees, successors, and assigns, and those in active concert or participation with any of them, from engaging in infringing activities with respect to the patents;
- e. That the Court find Ozcan's infringement was willful;
- f. That the Court award damages for the infringement to which Whirlpool is entitled;
- g. That the Court treble the damages for Ozcan's willful infringement;
- h. That the Court award to Whirlpool a disgorgement of Ozcan's profits pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 289;
- i. That the court find this an exceptional case and award Whirlpool its costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;
- j. That the Court award interest on the damages; and
- k. For any and all such other relief as this Court may deem appropriate.

Dated: December 21, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Melissa R. Smith
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WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing document was filed electronically in compliance with Local Rule CV-5(a). As such, this document was served on all counsel who have consented to electronic service, on December 21, 2015.

/s/ Melissa Smith
Melissa Smith